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PANAMA.

Report from Colon—Conditions and transactions, six months ended December 31, 1907.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Scales reports, January 27:

The following is a report of the transactions and conditions at this port from July 1, 1907 to December 31, 1907:

Summary of Transactions.

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Vessels inspected	39	30	30	44	36	41	210
Vessels fumigated	6	7	7	9	6	2	37
Crew inspected	2,345	1,945	1,966	2,551	2,393	2,554	13,754
Passengers inspected:							
Cabin, Colon	1,015	1,007	945	877	669	825	5,338
Steorage, Colon	843	577	565	708	775	1,290	4,758
Cabin, transit	210	132	95	188	148	177	950
Steorage, transit	287	197	204	359	506	264	1,817
Laborers inspected	256	261	282	280	207	322	1,608

Sanitary conditions.—The general sanitary conditions during the past six months have been very satisfactory and a marked improvement is shown over the corresponding period of 1906, as will be seen by the following table showing the annual average deaths per month per 1,000:

Deaths among employees of the Panama Railroad and Isthmian Canal Commission.

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1906	64.71	62.12	57.34	46.68	30.61	30.27
1907	35.43	27.59	28.63	25.97	20.66	18.11

Deaths among total population of Panama, Colon, and the Canal Zone.

	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1906	67.76	64.12	54.34	46.40	35.76	39.21
1907	41.46	33.75	32.93	30.19	28.86	28.50

No case of yellow fever has developed on the Isthmus since the month of May, 1906. Mosquitoes are still found in Colon, but can not be said to be abundant. *Culex* is the most plentiful variety; *Anopheles*, as is indicated by the malarial rate, are still present; *Stegomyia* are present but not numerous.

Through the efforts of the sanitary department of the Isthmian Canal Commission sanitary conditions continue to improve, but, to quote from the report of the department of sanitation for the month of August, 1907, "the rapid progress of construction of the canal causes us to have a constantly changing surface topography, and *Anopheles* breeding places are often thus made to exist near the camps and settlements. By this means the malarial status of any settlement may be changed very rapidly. * * *." During the past six months all gutters have been removed from houses and most of

the water tanks have been abolished, thus minimizing the number of breeding places. In some parts of Colon tin cans and other receptacles are seen between buildings. These form excellent breeding places for *Stegomyia*.

Trachoma, although not classed as a quarantinable disease, is very prevalent on the Isthmus, particularly so among the Greek and Italian laborers. Until quite recently (December 11, 1907), no precautions in the case of laborers were taken to prevent the importation of trachoma.

Malaria may be considered the prevailing disease, although other tropical diseases are frequently met with. Pneumonia is very fatal to the negro. Typhoid fever also has been very prevalent.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

Report from Manila—Increase of cholera in Manila—Reappearance of cholera at Mariquina—Inspection of vessels.

Chief Quarantine Officer Heiser reports, January 8:

Week ended January 4. Thirty-one cases of cholera with 23 deaths were reported.

Cholera.—During the week covered by this report there has been a very large increase in the number of cases of cholera reported in the city of Manila. The cases are most virulent in character, the victims usually succumbing a few hours after symptoms of the attack appear. There has been a large influx of visitors into Manila from the near-by provinces, on account of the holiday season. Some of these visitors were suffering from cholera on their arrival. No connection has been traced between the cases of cholera. There have been no two cases at any one house. There have been scarcely two cases to occur in the same street, and intervals sometimes of several days have elapsed before a second case appeared in any one section of the city. The persons attacked have, almost without exception, belonged to the poorer classes. No cases among Europeans or Americans have been reported.

To add to the gravity of the situation, the disease has also reappeared at Mariquina, which is a town located upon the watershed from which the water supply of the city of Manila is obtained. In order to guard as much as possible against pollution of the stream troops have been sent to the Mariquina Valley for the purpose of patrolling the banks of the river.

Consular bills of health were issued as follows: January 2, the Norwegian steamship *Standard*, with 27 crew, en route from Saigon to Cebu, was granted a supplemental bill of health, after the usual inspection. January 3, the U. S. army transport *Crook*, with 161 crew and 141 passengers, was granted a bill of health for San Francisco via Nagasaki and Honolulu. The crew and steerage passengers were bathed, and their effects and baggage disinfected. The vessel was partially disinfected. The cargo and the baggage were either disinfected or passed after inspection. All persons on board were inspected at the hour of sailing. January 4, the British steamship *Taiyuan*, with 72 members of crew and 55 passengers, en route from Hongkong to Zamboanga, was granted a supplemental bill of health. All persons on board were inspected prior to the vessel's departure.